

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00648 01 OF 02 261721Z

44

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 H-01 PRS-01

IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /048 W

----- 035207

O R 261403Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9912

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USUN NEW YORK 4499

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0648

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS US

SUBJECT: RABIN VISIT: THE PROSPECTS AS THE PRIME MINISTER DEPARTS

SUMMARY: THERE IS WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION THAT RABIN'S WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS WILL HIGHLIGHT US/ISRAELI DIFFERENCES ON TEMPO AND SUBSTANCE OF NEGOTIATING INITIATIVES. RABIN APPARENTLY IS COMING WITHOUT CONCRETE NEW PROPOSALS, LIMITING HIMSELF INSTEAD TO CALL FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT PLO AND RESTATEMENT OF ISRAELI READINESS FOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENT. HE WILL EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATIONS FY 77 AID REQUEST. EXPECTED US VETO AT END OF UNSC MIDDLE EAST DEBATE IS SEEN AS BLOCKING SYRIAN/SOVIET STRATEGY AND PRESERVING GENEVA FRAMEWORK BUT DOES NOT RESOLVE DOUBTS ABOUT US/ISRAELI DIFFERENCES ON HANDLING OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE IN FUTURE. ISRAELI COMMENTATORS VIEW LEBANESE CEASEFIRE AS EITHER MOMEN-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00648 01 OF 02 261721Z

TARY PAUSE OR VEILED SYRIAN/PLA TAKEOVER, AND REMAIN

CONCERNED THAT LEBANON IS ON WAY TO BECOMING CON-
FRONTATION STATE. FOR RABIN, HIS THIRD US VISIT SINCE
BECOMING PRIME MINISTER IS NEW TEST OF HIS LEADERSHIP.
ABROAD HIS VISIT WILL BE COMPARED TO, AND JUDGED
AGAINST, ACHIEVEMENTS OF SADAT LAST OCTOBER. IN
ISRAEL THERE WILL BE ADDED TEST OF WHETHER HE HAS
MANAGED TO PRESERVE THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS AS THEY
ARE UNDERSTOOD HERE WITHOUT DAMAGING FABRIC OF
US/ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. RABIN DEPARTURE STATEMENT AND CABINET COMMUNIQUE
(SEPTELS) CONFIRM DUAL FOCUS OF PRIME MINISTER'S
THIRD US VISIT IN HIS 20 MONTH TERM OF OFFICE: TO
MAINTAIN CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US
AND TO SEEK COMMON APPROACH FOR NEXT STAGES OF NEG-
OTIATIONS WITH ARAB STATES. INTENTIONAL BLANDNESS
OF CABINET ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH SIMPLY AUTHORIZES RABIN
VISIT ON BASIS OF GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES AND DECISIONS,
GIVES PRIME MINISTER CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE AS REGARDS
BOTH HIS SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS AND HIS PUBLIC
PRONOUNCEMENTS. AT SAME TIME, IT IMPLIES THAT RABIN
COMES TO US WITHOUT SPECIFIC NEW PROPOSALS.

2. THERE IS WIDELY-HELD CON-
VICTION AMONG POLITICIANS AND COMMENTATORS THAT 1976
WILL BE YEAR OF TRANSITION DURING WHICH, BARRING
UNEXPECTED BREAKTHROUGH, LOCAL PARTIES WILL BE AWAITING
OUTCOME OF US ELECTION BEFORE
FORMULATING CONCRETE
DECISIONS ON NEXT STEPS. FROM ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE
RABIN VISIT WILL BE JUDGED PRIMARILY, NOT BY SUBSTANTIVE
PROGRESS OR LACK THEREOF ON NEGOTIATING FRONT, BUT
BY HIS ABILITY TO PRESENT ISRAEL'S CASE TO ADMINISTRA-
TION, CONGRESS AND US PUBLIC. VISIT
WILL BE MEASURED AGAINST PUBLIC RELATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS
OF PRESIDENT SADAT LAST OCTOBER. INDEED RABIN HAS
CONCENTRATED HIS EFFORTS IN RECENT DAYS ON PREPARING
HIS ADDRESS TO JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS AND OTHER
PUBLIC STATEMENTS, STARTING IN PHILADELPHIA THIS
AFTERNOON.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00648 01 OF 02 261721Z

3. RABIN'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS. CONGRESSIONAL ADDRESS,
ACCORDING TO USUALLY
RELIABLE PRESS SOURCES,
WHILE NOT BREAKING NEW GROUND WILL BE POSITIVE AND
UPBEAT. IT WILL EMPHASIZE ISRAEL'S PEACE ASPIRATIONS,
FLEXIBILITY ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES AND COMMIT-
MENT TO SEEK SOLUTION TO PALESTINIAN QUESTION. THE

SPEECH'S MAIN THEMES REPORTEDLY WILL BE A) RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE IN 1976 ON BASIS OF ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS, AND B) ISRAEL'S READINESS FOR SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR PEACE. RABIN WILL EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, WHILE NOT HEART OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, CAN BE SOLVED IN FRAMEWORK OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN, AND EXPLAIN THAT ARAB STATE HAD FAILED TO SEEK ITS SOLUTION IN PRE-1967 PERIOD WHEN WEST BANK AND GAZA WERE NOT UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL. HE WILL SHY AWAY FROM CATEGORICAL NEGATIVES, SUCH AS REFUSAL TO COME DOWN FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS, FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED IN RECENT MONTHS.

4. THE WASHINGTON AGENDA. ISRAELIS ANTICIPATE THAT PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY WILL BE DIFFICULT, FOCUSING ON INTERRELATED ISSUES OF NEXT STEPS IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS AND BILATERAL US/ISRAELI RELATIONS. ON FORMER, AS NOTED ABOVE, LOCAL COMMENTATORS BELIEVE RABIN IS COMING WITHOUT NEW PROPOSALS AND WILL REITERATE PREFERENCE FOR NEW EFFORT AT CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. ISRAELI RADIO REPORTS THAT SECRETARY'S MOSCOW CONSULTATIONS ALSO EXAMINED GENEVA PROSPECTS, WITH CRUNCH

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00648 02 OF 02 261606Z

44

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 EB-02 H-01 PRS-01

IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /047 W

----- 034190

O R 261403Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9913

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USUN NEW YORK 4500

SECRET SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0648

LIMDIS

QUESTION BEING DIFFERENCES OVER PLO PARTICIPATION. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM HERE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF ACTIVATING EITHER SYRIAN-ISRAELI OR JORDANIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENTS. ASAD'S INTRANSIGENCE AND DISINTEREST SEEM TO PRECLUDE THE FORMER WHILE RABAT CONFERENCE DECISION CONTINUES TO STAND IN WAY OF THE LATTER.

5. ON BILATERAL LEVEL, RABIN WILL MAKE CASE FOR SUSTAINING ISRAELI MILITARY/ECONOMIC AID AT CURRENT LEVELS DESPITE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO REDUCE FMS PORTION OF FY 77 AID PACKAGE. HAARETZ' WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS RABIN WILL REQUEST AN ADDITIONAL \$250 MILLION. (SEE SEPTTEL)

6. AS RABIN FLIES WESTWARD, ATTENTION HERE IS FOCUSED ON TWO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING BOTH WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS AND LONGER TERM CHALLENGES FACING ISRAEL: IMMINENT CONCLUSION OF UNSC MIDDLE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00648 02 OF 02 261606Z

EAST DEBATE; AND EVOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS.

7. AFTER WEEKS OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT KIND OF RESOLUTION ARAB STATES WOULD PRESENT AND HOW US WOULD VOTE IN UNSC, TENSIONS HAVE NOW SUBSIDED WITH US VETO TAKEN AS VIRTUALLY FOREGONE CONCLUSION. ISRAEL WILL DOUBTLESS EXPRESS SATISFACTION AND APPRECIATION FOR US VETO WHICH IT REGARDS AS MEETING US/ISRAEL/ EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE OF BLOCKING SOVIET-SYRIAN STRATEGY AND OF PRESERVING GENEVA NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK. ISRAELI RADIO'S UN COMMENTATOR THIS MORING NOTED THAT NEXT UNSC INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WILL BE UPON EXPIRY OF UNDOF MANDATE ON MAY 30. AT SAME TIME, LOCAL COMMENTATORS NOTE THAT US VETO AT MOST PROVIDES RESPITE, BUT NOT ESCAPE, FROM CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL (AND US) PRESSURE FOR ISRAELI RECONSIDERATION ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

8. LEBANESE CRISIS. ISRAELIS TEND TO VIEW CEASEFIRE AS EITHER MOMENTARY PAUSE IN CIVIL WAR OR AS VEILED SYRIAN/PLA TAKEOVER. (EVRON TOLD CHARGE' THAT LEBANON WAS NOW A "CLIENT STATE" OF SYRIA.) IN EITHER INTERPRETATION, ISRAELI LEADERSHIP AND COMMENTATORS REMAIN CONCERNED THAT LEBANON INEXORABLY

IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO CONFRONTATION STATE. OVER WEEKEND, RABIN WARNED THAT ISRAEL "WON'T STAND ASIDE IF CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS TAKE PLACE," WHILE DEFENSE MINISTER PERES SAID ISRAEL WAS CORRECT IN REFUSING TO INTERVENE IN LEBANESE CIVIL WAR BUT REMAINS FREE TO ASSURE ITS OWN DEFENSE AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE. AS INDEX OF GRAVITY WITH WHICH LEBANESE CRISIS IS BEING VIEWED HERE, RABIN REPORTEDLY HAS INSTRUCTED HIS MILITARY ADVISOR ARIK SHARON--WHO WAS DUE TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON--TO STAY BEHIND AND REPORT TO HIM ON THE DEVELOPING SITUATION.

9. DOMESTIC SCENE. GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY KNESSET COALITION MEMBERS TWICE IN LAST WEEK. ITS CENSORSHIP PROPOSALS ENCOUNTERED WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE, WHILE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00648 02 OF 02 261606Z

MAJOR BUS STRIKE BY EXTENDING NEW SUBSIDIES WERE TURNED DOWN IN FINANCE COMMITTEE. STRIKE IS NOW IN ITS FIFTH DAY. BOTH INSTANCES INDICATE THAT GOVERNMENT IS FAILING TO MARSHAL ITS FORCES BEFORE FORMULATING POLICY, EXPOSING ITSELF TO CHARGES OF WEAKNESS AND MALADROITNESS.

10. CONCLUSION: OUTCOME OF WASHINGTON VISIT WILL BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED HERE AS TEST OF RABIN'S LEADERSHIP AND AS SIGNPOST FOR THE FUTURE. RABIN'S PREFERENCE FOR MOVING SLOWLY AND POSTPONING FURTHER DECISIONS UNTIL AFTER US ELECTIONS DOES NOT MESH WELL WITH EXPRESSED US CONCERN TO PREVENT DEADLOCK LEADING TO NEW WAR. HOWEVER VISIT GOES, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE INCREASED INTERNAL PRESSURES FOR CABINET DEBATE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE AFTER RABIN'S RETURN AND POSSIBLY RENEWED CALLS FOR EARLY ELECTION. HARD DECISIONS ON THE PALESTINIANS, THE WEST BANK AND THE GOLAN LIE AHEAD, AND THIS WEEK'S TALKS MAY CLARIFY WHEN THOSE DECISIONS WILL BE FACED AND IN WHAT ORDER.
DUNNIGAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV00648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0388
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760120/aaaaarsp.tel
Line Count: 268
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABIN VISIT: THE PROSPECTS AS THE PRIME MINISTER DEPARTS SUMMARY: THERE IS WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IS, US, (RABIN, YITZHAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006